[Translation]

Indian Institute of Mass Communications

781 SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government had decided to set up any branch of Indian Institute of Mass Communication at Jhabua District of Madhya Pradesh;

(b) if so, whether the foundation stone was laid to establish the branch there;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether Madhya Pradesh Government has provided land for the project; and

(e) if so, the purpose for which land is being used?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ) : (a) to (c) The Government had decided to set up a branch of Indian Institute of Mass Communication at Jhabua (M.P.) The foundation stone of the branch was laid on 30.07.94.

(d) and (e) The Government of M.P. has allotted 7.52 acres of land for construction of the building.

Abuse of Rights in NTPC Project

782. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item captioned, "Rights abuse in NTPC project" appearing in the *Economic Times* dated April 23, 1998;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government to the various observations made therein;

(c) the details of action taken/proposed to the taken in this regard; and

(d) the present status of the project?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Complaints of alleged assault/use of force or violence of displaced villagers, issue of compensation, resettlement and environmental damages have been/ are look into by the project authorities, the State Governments and the Government of India. Such complaints have also been raised in various forums including the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) which conducted a through investigation in the matter and also had a full hearing chaired by Shri N. Venkatachalaiah, Chairperson. NHRC Ex-Chief Justice of Supreme Court of India). After careful consideration of the written and oral submissions, the Commission came to the view that there is no need to pursue the matter and closed the proceedings. Further, the allegation in the press that NTPC has hired any so called 'goon squads' has no basis and is incorrect.

(c) The Rehabilitation & Resettlement *R&R) activities of NTPC are open for review by various independent agencies and are also being reviewed by the World Bank and NTPC on regular basis.

An Independent Monitoring Panel (IMP) comprising 3 eminent members with an NGO, a Social Development expert and a Senior Advocate of the Supreme Court of India as Chairperson has been constituted in November, 1997 to further strengthen the monitoring and review system. The IMP is visiting and is also interacting with the people. The R&R activities are also monitored at the level of Cabinet Secretary at the Centre.

For resettling the Homestead Oustees (HSO). NTPC has created 6 settlement colonies under the approved Policy which envisages providing adequate infrastructure such as developed plots, drains, sanitation facilities, schools, community facilities, health care centres, electricity, etc. Most of the HSOs have shifted, except a few, with whom discussions are on by NTPC and IMP etc. The maintenance of these resettlement colonies are being taken over by the State Governments and this has already been completed in Vindhyachal project. For the Project Affected Persons (PAPs) who have lost their earning capacity, NTPC, has taken steps to provide alternatives for their rehabilitation in Singrauli region. For the remaining few, NTPC, in consultation with the World Bank, has already drawn an action plan. A Social Impact Assessment (SIA) study has also been conducted by a reputed institute namely XIDAS, Jabalpur. NTPC will take rehabilitation actions in respect of the remaining PAPs as per report of XIDAS.

For resolution of various grievances, there are established mechanisms viz., well qualified social scientists and other staff of NTPC, Public Information Centre, Village Development Advisory Committee with representatives of PAPs/State Government. NTPC etc.

(d) The project works in progress at present are those related to Vindhyachal Stage-II and construction of Ash Dyke in Rihand.

Doordarshan Serials

783. SHRI C.P.M. GIRIYAPPA : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) the details of T.V. serials being telecast on Doordarshan Channel-I (National Channel) for the last more than five years;

(b) whether these serials would continue further for several years; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor?